

**Written Testimony of Diane Holmes, Fairfield University School of Nursing, Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of H.B. 5130**

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Members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products, as a concerned nursing student and future healthcare provider. As a nursing student, I have taken care of many people in different communities of a variety of ages across the life span. The age group that has impacted me the most is the pediatric population. As part of my Pediatrics clinical rotation, we taught children in the Bridgeport area about lead, a toxic metal that many children are exposed to, which can lead to behavioral and developmental delays. As a result of strong public health legislation, childhood lead exposure has been significantly reduced over the past 20 years. However, many children and adults are still living with the results of this exposure. I believe the lessons learned from childhood exposure to lead can be applied to the multiple toxic chemicals being used in children's products today.

I believe as a future healthcare provider, it is my job to help voice concern regarding these health hazards that exist in our environment and homes. Through my education and clinical experience, I have learned that there are toxic chemicals in common children's products that are getting into the bodies of susceptible children. Studies have shown that many of these toxic chemicals have been linked to illnesses such as cancer, learning and behavioral disorders and diabetes. However, with your help, Connecticut can be a catalyst for change and reduce children's exposure to dangerous toxins by passing this common sense legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5130 and please consider passing this bill in order to protect our families and environment.